

SENATE BILL 21

By Haile

AN ACT to name a bridge on State Route 386 (Vietnam Veterans Boulevard) in Sumner County in honor of the late Benjamin C. "Pat" Hartman, Jr., United States Army.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Benjamin C. "Pat" Hartman, Jr., United States Army, who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country on September 19, 1968, while serving in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin C. "Pat" Hartman, Jr. followed the patriotic tradition for which Sumner County and the Volunteer State are renowned by serving with distinction in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin C. "Pat" Hartman, Jr. served honorably in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Flying Cross, Air Medal with First through Twenty-First Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Senior Parachutist Badge, and the Army Aviator Badge; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Mr. Hartman did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and to stop the global spread of Communism; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin C. "Pat" Hartman, Jr. served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Army, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin C. "Pat" Hartman, Jr.'s dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin C. "Pat" Hartman, Jr. selflessly gave his life for his country, and it is thus most appropriate that a certain bridge on Vietnam Veterans Boulevard in his home county should be named to honor his memory, in accordance with the request of the Sumner County Board of Commissioners; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the bridge spanning Center Point Road on State Route 386 (Vietnam Veterans Boulevard) in Sumner County is hereby designated the "Benjamin C. "Pat" Hartman, Jr. Memorial Bridge" in recognition of the life of valor and death in combat of Benjamin C. "Pat" Hartman, Jr., United States Army, one of Tennessee's most heroic citizens.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Benjamin C. "Pat" Hartman, Jr. Memorial Bridge." The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.